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August 21, 2003

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**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL OFFERS AMENDED BUS FARE BILL
FOLLOWING PUBLIC COMMENTS**

(HONOLULU, HI) – Following three nights of public hearings on the proposed bus service reductions and a rare joint Transportation and Budget Committee meeting last Tuesday, the Honolulu City Council is offering up an amended version of Bill 53 that will be considered on August 25, 2003.

Said Council Chair Gary Okino, "Over the past week, the City conducted various public forums on Oahu in order to hear from bus riders and taxpayers alike about how they desire the Council to proceed on this very important issue. Consistently, at each of these meetings, three themes occurred: a) restore the Express Bus service cuts; b) a majority of bus riders are willing to pay a premium price for premium service, and c) be mindful of the impacts to seniors. By working together, we were able to craft the following bill that we believe addresses the overall community's concerns."

Continued Transportation Committee Chair Nestor Garcia, "Through consensus, we developed several new concepts in response to community and public comments received. We are proposing that the Adult and Student Passes be equivalent to 20 cash fare trips. We are proposing a new Premium Pass level for those who primarily ride Express Bus services. This pass will be good for both regular and express buses. As consumer options, we are proposing an adult and student day pass that would be good the entire day that it is purchased. We will continue with the Administration's proposed fees for Peak Premium and Transfers. Based on ridership and in an attempt to more equitably spread out the cost of operations over the entire base of users, we are proposing to increase the senior annual rate to \$30.00 per year as well as offer them the option of purchasing monthly passes at \$3.00 per month."

(more)

(2)

	Current	Bill 53	Proposed FD 1
Adult Cash	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75
Adult Monthly Pass	\$30.00	\$37.00	\$35.00
Adult Monthly Premium Pass	None	None	\$45.00
Adult Day Pass	None	None	\$5.00
Adult Annual Pass	\$360.00	Unchanged	\$390.00
Adult Annual Premium Pass	None	None	\$450.00
Youth Cash	\$.75	\$.85	\$1.00
Youth Monthly Pass	\$13.50	\$18.50	\$20.00
Youth Monthly Premium Pass	None	None	\$30.00
Youth Day Pass	None	None	\$2.50
Youth Annual Pass	\$150.00	Unchanged	\$190.00
Youth Annual Premium Pass	None	None	\$250.00
Child Cash	\$.50	Unchanged	Unchanged
Child Monthly Pass	\$12.5	Unchanged	Unchanged
Express Differential Fare	None	\$.25	\$.25
Transfer Fee	None	\$.25	\$.25
Disabled Cash	\$.75	Unchanged	Unchanged
Disabled Annual Pass	\$25 every 2 years	\$25 every 2 years	\$30.00
Senior Cash	\$.75	\$.25/trip	\$.75
Senior Monthly Pass	None	None	\$3.00
Senior Monthly Premium Pass	None	None	\$13.00
Senior Annual Pass	\$25 every 2 years	N/a	\$30.00
Senior Annual Premium Pass	None	None	\$140.00
Football Express	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.50
Visitor's Pass	\$15/4 days	\$20/4 days	\$20/4 days

"The Council may be willing to go with some fare increases, but we want to make sure that these increases will go towards restoring bus service," said Councilwoman Ann Kobayashi. "We are still concerned about the transfer process, seniors and those riders who cannot afford these increases. This is still a work in progress and we welcome input from the public. Our goal is to come up with a fare structure which is equitable to all classes of riders and still maintain this important service to the public."

Copies of the proposed Floor Draft amendment are available at the City Clerk's Committee Services office.

Written testimonies will be accepted by the Council for the August 25, 2003 special Council meeting. For those wishing to submit written testimony, please fax to 527-5733 or mail to Honolulu City Council, ATTN: Councilmembers Nestor Garcia and Ann Kobayashi at 530 S. King Street, Room 202, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.